



# NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

## LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.5 percent rose three-tenths of a percentage point from June to July, 2001, for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) consisting of Bingham, Bonneville, Butte and Jefferson counties. The increase was mainly seen in Butte, Jefferson, and Bingham counties. Although the actual increase in numbers of unemployed in Butte and Jefferson was small (increases of 19 and 11 people respectively), the percentage increase looked more dramatic at 1.1 percentage points and five-tenths of a percentage point, respectively. Butte experienced the change as workers took early retirements from the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), and some of those people are still in the labor force or looking for work.

Bingham (up four-tenths of a percentage point or 105 unemployed persons) and Jefferson counties were hit more by the time of year as many potato warehouses and packaging plants laid off employees for annual maintenance. Bonneville County's unemployment rate increased, but only by one-tenth of a percentage point (64 more people unemployed). Three of the four counties experienced a decrease in the unemployment rate from July 2000, with the exception of Butte County, which increased 1.5 percentage points (or 27 more people unemployed). Overall, the LMA is three-tenths of a percentage point lower than July of last year.

Bonneville County held the lowest unemployment rate in the Bonneville LMA at 3.0 percent in July, followed by Jefferson, Bingham, and Butte counties at 3.8, 4.2, and 4.7 percent, respectively. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, increased one-tenth of a percentage point over the month to 3.2 percent and decreased three-tenths of a percentage point year-over-year.

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties

	July 2001*	June 2001	July 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	83,890	83,590	80,240	0.4	4.5
Unemployment	2,930	2,700	3,050	8.5	-3.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.2	3.8		
Total Employment	80,960	80,900	77,200	0.1	4.9
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	84,650	84,830	80,980	-0.2	4.5
Unemployment	2,580	2,380	2,640	8.4	-2.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	2.8	3.3		
Total Employment	82,070	82,450	78,340	-0.5	4.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	64,640	65,360	62,810	-1.1	2.9
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	10,360	10,190	9,600	1.7	7.9
Mining & Construction	5,060	4,940	4,300	2.4	17.7
Manufacturing	5,300	5,250	5,300	1.0	0.0
Food Processing	2,680	2,680	2,780	0.0	-3.6
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	470	460	570	2.2	-17.5
All Other Manufacturing	2,150	2,110	1,950	1.9	10.3
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	54,280	55,170	53,210	-1.6	2.0
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,370	2,340	2,360	1.3	0.4
Wholesale Trade	6,250	6,280	6,310	-0.5	-1.0
Retail Trade	11,400	11,500	11,500	-0.9	-0.9
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,920	1,950	1,900	-1.5	1.1
Services	21,680	21,760	21,370	-0.4	1.5
Government Administration	6,010	6,010	5,480	0.0	9.7
Government Education	4,650	5,330	4,290	-12.8	8.4
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

The seasonally adjusted *Civilian Labor Force* showed an increase of 300 people month-over-month with the economy holding steady. Call center and fast food/restaurant workers are in demand in the LMA, along with truck drivers (all classes) and construction workers/specialists. The yearly growth in the *Civilian Labor Force* is 3,650 people.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* (jobs by place of work) decreased by 720 over the month, for a total of 64,640 jobs in the LMA. *Goods-Producing Industries* increased by 170 jobs month-over-month, with *Construction* adding 120 of those jobs. *Manufacturing* experienced an increase of 50, mostly in *Nondurable Goods* other than food. *Service-Producing Industries* decreased month-over-month (890 jobs) for the only time this year with the exception of January. Of those jobs, 680 were in *Government Education*, as would be expected this time of year with public schools experiencing a break in teaching. *Services* also experienced a decrease of 80 jobs, with decreases of 420 in *Engineering & Management* (INEEL early retirements) and 50 in *Social Services* being somewhat offset by increases mostly relevant in *Ag Services* (90 jobs), *Business Services* (80 jobs), and *Nonprofit Organizations* (100 jobs). *Retail*

Trade experienced a decrease of 100 jobs, most coming from *Garden Supplies* and *Eating & Drinking Establishments*.

A year-over-year comparison shows that *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 1,830 jobs. *Goods-Producing Industries* increased by 760 jobs with *Construction* and *All Other Manufacturing* being the only contributors. *Service-Producing Industries* showed an overall increase of 1,070 jobs, with *Services*, *Government Education* and *Government Administration* each showing increases greater than 300 jobs.

## **AREA DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Bonneville County**

- Wal-Mart announced its plans to build a super center in Ammon, just east of Idaho Falls. The store will be moving from its current 100,000-square-foot building at 925 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street into a 200,000-square-foot building on the corner of Hitt and 17<sup>th</sup> Street, two miles to the east. Wal-Mart did not have space to sufficiently expand and accommodate parking in the existing location in Idaho Falls. The change is expected to take place within the next two years.
- Idaho Fall's Town and Country Gardens is expanding to Pocatello with its second store. The new store will be located in the space that was most recently known as Pocatello Greenhouse. The change occurs in conjunction with the retirement of Dick Chase from the Pocatello store after 44 years. Town and Country Gardens has been in existence for 37 years

and caters to "do-it-yourselfers." The nursery offers employee expertise on gardening and landscaping along with a large supply of greenery.

- A Kansas company has begun the construction of a \$20 million hospital in Idaho Falls named Mountain View. ASC Group is building this 17-bed hospital at 2325 Coronado Street and plans to have it open in the fall of 2002. ASC Group has been in operation for six years and has 18 surgical hospitals nationwide. Another 19 are in development, including the Idaho Falls location. The hospital will not have a full-fledged emergency room since that is covered by the larger hospital (EIRMC) across the street. The \$122,000-square-foot facility will consist of two floors. Emphasis will be on orthopedic surgery, obstetrics, and women's health. The hospital already has 20 doctors involved as partners and expects to add 10 to 15 additional doctors in the future.

### **Lemhi County**

- Salmon just experienced its ninth-annual Great Salmon Valley Balloonfest and Sacajawea Heritage Days. Watch for the write-up of festivities and activities to be featured in the Special Topic in October's newsletter.

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